

Energy Efficient Wheelchairs and Skills

Luke Meighan (Bioengineer in Aberdeen) was charged with trying to teach us something about energy efficient wheelchairs. Luke's first task was to try and prise some long forgotten physics out of our heads – he was fairly successful in this venture as we soon had several sheets of flip chart covered with our input which Luke managed to tweak into the basic principles of energy efficiency.

This was followed by a “hands on” session where the group were let loose on a variety of chairs to check out their attributes and our ability levels. A few scary moments were experienced as folk performed unintended “wheelies” or underestimated the power of the e-motion wheels (power assisted wheel hubs).

Overall, the group came away with a greater understanding of the relationship between energy input and output and also the dilemma of pressing local Wheelchair Services for a greater range of energy efficient chairs.